

**Today**... and ...



in the **Future**

## Office of the Superintendent

3205 Jenny Lind • P.O. Box 1948  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902-1948  
479-785-2501  
Fax: 479-785-1722

October 22, 2013

Acting Chairman Clyburn  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Clyburn:

On behalf of the Fort Smith Public Schools, I am pleased to express our strong support for the nomination of AASA Executive Director Daniel A. Domenech to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. We were pleased to support Dr. Domenech in his initial nomination in 2012, and we look forward to his continued leadership with USAC. We welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The E-Rate program is critical to the effectiveness of K-12 school systems in the United States. The Fort Smith Public Schools and most other schools count on the available E-Rate discounts to make it possible for schools to afford the necessary broadband connectivity. This broadband access is essential in order for our schools to support 21<sup>st</sup> Century instruction as students prepare for the global marketplace. As our schools implement the Common Core State Standards and the next generation of online assessments, enhanced connectivity is even more critical.

Dr. Domenech's leadership at AASA—and AASA's proven track record as an excellent advocate for the E-Rate program—make us confident that he will be a strong addition to the USAC Board.

With more than 40 years of experience in public education, Dr. Domenech has extensive education and leadership experience, including first-hand experience of the critical role of telecommunications and connectivity in schools. Further, his direct link to public school systems provides a sense of continuity when it comes to representing school system-level thoughts and opinions, as he would fill the spot currently held by the NSBA.

In today's increasingly global and competitive world, a top notch education and the building of lifelong learning skills require access to education technology, and Dr. Domenech is acutely aware of the crucial role the E-Rate program plays in helping schools and libraries afford telecommunications connectivity.

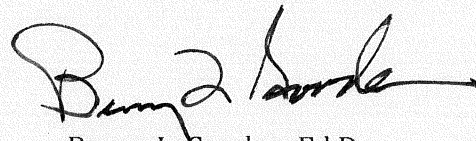
Beyond his years in the classroom, which include extensive teaching and leadership experience, Dr. Domenech has served on the U.S. Department of Education's National Assessment Governing Board, on the advisory board for the Department of Defense Schools, and on the Board of Overseers for the Baldrige Award. He is currently chair for Communities in Schools of Virginia, the Learning First Alliance, the Educational Research Service and the Board of Visitors for the College of Education at the University of West Georgia. He serves on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the National Student Clearinghouse, Americas Promise, the Center for Naval Analyses, and the Sea Research Foundation.

We believe that Dr. Domenech's broad understanding of education, education leadership and education technology, coupled with a strong work ethic and deep commitment to expanding educational opportunities to the nation's students will add to the work of USAC as it moves forward. His nomination to the USAC board provides continuity and leadership, allowing him to continue in a role he has held over the past year, representing the voice of school administrator/superintendent.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your approval of Dr. Domenech's nomination to the USAC Board of Directors, representing schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benny L. Gooden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benny L. Gooden, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools